Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, Research suggests that a strong family structure translates to the social and economic well-being of children; and,

Whereas, We are living in a society where emotional and physical fatherlessness is becoming the norm, and children who live in an environment without a positive male role model are more likely to be involved in criminal activity, struggle in school, and participate in unhealthy activities; and,

Whereas, In 2003, Youth and Family Services (YFS) in Rapid City, South Dakota, implemented the Fatherhood First program to focus on strengthening families involved in the agency and throughout the community; and,

Whereas, The primary goal of YFS Fatherhood First is to help fathers develop positive relationships with their children and to help them understand the importance of their presence in their children's lives; and,

Whereas, With the acknowledgement of the presence of positive male role models in the lives of children, our communities will grow safer and more productive, relationships will flourish, and future generations will always be able to count on a strong family support system for positive guidance:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim June 2011, as

RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD MONTH

in South Dakota, and urge all citizens to reflect on the importance of family in our communities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Sixteenth Day of May in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eleven.

Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Jason M. Gant, Secretary of State